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The comments of Anita Stech, 2420 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Duluth Minnesota 55812

I have been involved in community (public) access programming since its inception in 1972 as a producer, as a member of a non-profit Board that administers public access, and as a staff member of the Minnesota Cable Communications Board.

As I have observed media developments over time, I have seen how regulations and legislation have produced national and international media and content, with less and less emphasis on local media and content. I think this is a dangerous trend for our society.

It is puzzling to me that the FCC and its rulemaking are all about insuring that this trend towards nationalizing the content of television programming continues.

Why isn't the FCC working to insure that no matter what sets of wires/cable/fiber deliver telephone/television/computer services to our homes/businesses/institutions – that those communications systems have a portion cut out for us, the citizens of this country, to use to express our local concerns, see our governments in action, and to use these powerful communications tools to foster FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

Further, why isn't the FCC working to find a way to fund the local efforts – community access centers -- to preserve the free speech that now exists on cable's public access channels?

Community access centers and channels are cost-effective, successful operations. Their services and programming should be extended to any subscriber or customer who receives ANY telecommunications services, not eliminated or cut back.

The community access corporation in my city – Duluth Public Access Community Television, Inc. – could operate for a whole year on a fraction of one Super Bowl advertisement cost. Surely the thousands of programming hours generated annually by community access corporations in this country are worth the relatively miniscule costs involved.

The FCC has an opportunity to change directions of media in this country – towards LOCAL --for the benefit of all. Please do not squander this opportunity. Consider a rulemaking that assures the healthy future of the most fundamental of local media – community access.

Thank you reading and considering these comments.